

Istriot language

Istriot is a Romance language spoken by about 400 people in the southwestern part of the Istrian peninsula in Croatia, particularly in Rovinj and Vodnjan. It should not be confused with the Istrian dialect of the Venetian language.

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Classification

Istriot is a Romance language related to the Ladin populations of the Alps, currently only found in Istria. According to the Italian linguist Matteo Bartoli, the Ladin area used to extend – until the year 1000 AD – from southern Istria to Friuli and eastern Switzerland.^[3]

Its classification remained mostly unclear, but in 2017 it was classified by the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History with the Dalmatian language in the Dalmatian Romance subgroup,^[4] yet due to the specificities of the language, which has always had a very limited number of speakers. Istriot was also viewed:

- as an independent Northern Italian language, belonging neither to the Venetian language nor to the Gallo-Italic group (opinion shared by linguists Tullio De Mauro and Maurizio Dardano);
- as a variety of the Rhaeto-Romance languages by the Istriot Antonio Ive^[5]
- as an independent language of the Italo-Dalmatian group^[6]
- as an autochthonous Romance language heavily influenced by Venetian, Friulian and Slavic superstrates by Mirko Deanović^[5]

When Istria was a region of the Kingdom of Italy, Istriot was considered by the authorities as a subdialect of Venetian.^[7]

Istriot	
<i>bumbaro, vallese, rovignese, sisanese, fasanese, gallesanese</i>	
Native to	Croatia
Region	Istria
Native speakers	400 (2007) ^[1] L2 speakers: 900 (2007) ^[1]
Language family	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Italic ▪ Romance ▪ Italo-Dalmatian ▪ Dalmatian Romance ▪ Istriot
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	ist
Glottolog	istr1244 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/istr1244) ^[2]
Linguasphere	51-AAA-na

Historically, its speakers never referred to it as "Istriot"; it had six names after the six towns where it was spoken. In Vodnjan it was named "Bumbaro", in Bale "Vallese", in Rovinj "Rovignese", in Šišan "Sissanese", in Fažana "Fasanese" and in Galižana "Gallesanese". The term *Istriot* was coined by the 19th-century Italian linguist Graziadio Isaia Ascoli.

This language is still spoken by some people in the Istriot communities in Fertilia and Maristella, in Sardinia.

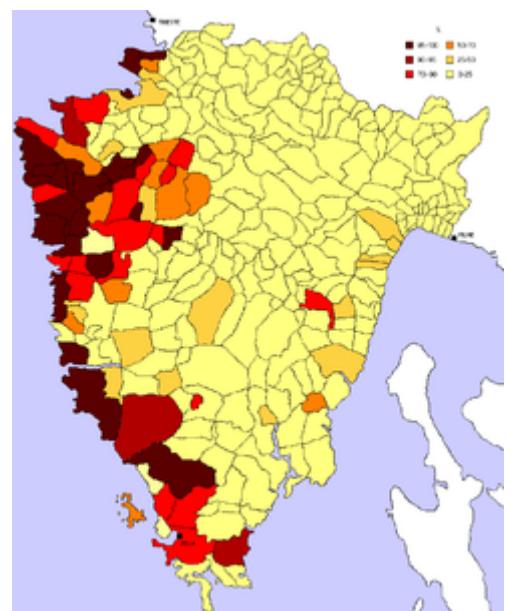
There are about 400 speakers left, making it an endangered language.

Vocabulary

Below is a comparison of Istriot with several closely related Romance languages and Latin:



Rovinj (*Rovigno*), the historical capital of the Istriots



Austrian census of 1910, classifying *Istriots* as *Italians* and showing the majority populations in reddish colors. Istriotic areas begin south of the Leme (Lim) channel

<u>Latin</u>	<u>Italian</u>	<u>Istriot</u>	<u>Venetian</u>	<u>Bisiacco Venetian</u>	<u>English</u>
<i>clave(m)</i>	<i>chiave</i>	ciave	<i>ciave</i>	<i>ciave</i>	<i>key</i>
<i>nocte(m)</i>	<i>notte</i>	nuoto	<i>note/not</i>	<i>note</i>	<i>night</i>
<i>cantare</i>	<i>cantare</i>	cantà	<i>cantar</i>	<i>cantar</i>	<i>to sing</i>
<i>capra(m)</i>	<i>capra</i>	càvara	<i>càvara</i>	<i>cavra</i>	<i>goat</i>
<i>lingua(m)</i>	<i>lingua</i>	lengua	<i>lengua</i>	<i>lengua</i>	<i>language</i>
<i>platea(m)</i>	<i>piazza</i>	piassa	<i>piassa</i>	<i>piassa</i>	<i>square</i>
<i>ponte(m)</i>	<i>ponte</i>	ponto	<i>pontel/pont</i>	<i>pont</i>	<i>bridge</i>
<i>ecclesia(m)</i>	<i>chiesa</i>	ceza	<i>cexa</i>	<i>cesa</i>	<i>church</i>
<i>hospitale(m)</i>	<i>ospedale</i>	uspadal	<i>ospedal</i>	<i>ospedal</i>	<i>hospital</i>
<i>caseu(m) lat.vulg.formaticu(m)</i>	<i>formaggio/cacio</i>	furmajo	<i>formajo</i>	<i>formai</i>	<i>cheese</i>

Phonology

The phonology of the Istriot language^[8]:

Consonants

		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental/ Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t			k
	<u>voiced</u>	b		d			g
Affricate	<u>voiceless</u>				č, tʃ		
	<u>voiced</u>				ð, dʒ		
Fricative	<u>voiceless</u>		f	s			
	<u>voiced</u>		v	z			
Nasal		m		n		ŋ	(ŋ)
Trill				r			
Approximant	<u>central</u>					j	w
	<u>lateral</u>			l		(ʎ)	

- Sounds /w, j/ can also be noted as [i ɯ] among different dialects.
- [ŋ] occurs as a result of a nasal consonant preceding a velar stop.
- [ʎ] can occur as a result of Italian loanwords.

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Close-mid	e		o
Open-mid	ɛ		ɔ
Open		a	

Example

This is a poem called "Grièbani" by Ligo Zanini^[9] in the dialect of Rovinj-Rovigno.

Istriot	Italian
<p>La nostra zì oûna longa cal da griebani:</p> <p>i spironi da Monto inda uò salvà, e 'l brasso da Vistro uò rastà scuio pei grutoni pioûn alti del mar, ca ruzaghia sta tiera viecia-stara.</p> <p>Da senpro i signemo pissi sensa nom, ca da sui sa prucoûra 'l bucon par guodi la veîta leîbara del cucal, pastadi dala piova da Punente a da Livante</p> <p>e cume i uleîi mai incalmadi. Fra ste carme zì stà la nostra salvissa, cume i riboni a sa salva dal dulfeîn fra i scagni del sico da San Damian; el nostro pan, nato gra li gruote, zi stà inbinideî cul sudur sula iera zbruventa da Paloû... e i vemo caminà par oûna longa cal da griebani, c'ancui la riesta lissada dali nostre urme.</p>	<p>La nostra è una lunga strada irta di sassi:</p> <p>gli speroni di Monto ci hanno salvato, ed il braccio di Vistro è rimasto scoglio per le grotte poste più in alto del mare, che erode questa antica terra.</p> <p>Da sempre siamo pesciolini che da soli si procurano il bocccone per godere la libera vita del gabbiano, oppresi dalla pioggia di Ponente e di Levante come olivi senza innesti.</p> <p>Fra queste insenature è stata la nostra salvezza, come i pagelli si salvano dal delfino fra le tane della secca di San Damiano; il nostro pane, nato tra le grotte, è stato benedetto col sudore nell'aia ribollente di Palù... ed abbiamo camminato per una lunga strada dissestata, che oggi rimane spianate dai nostri passi.</p>

See also

- [Istrian Italians](#)
- [Julian March](#)
- [Dalmatian language](#)
- [Wikisource:Istriot](#) (<https://wikisource.org/wiki/Category:Istriot>)

Notes

1. [Istriot](https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ist) (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ist>) at [Ethnologue](#) (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "[Istriot](#)" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/istr1244>). [Glottolog 3.0](#). Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Bartoli, Matteo. *Le parlate italiane della Venezia Giulia e della Dalmazia*. Tipografia italo-orientale. Grottaferrata 1919.
4. "[Glottolog 3.1 - Istriot](http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/istr1244)" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/istr1244>). glottolog.org. Retrieved 2018-01-21.
5. Stammerjohann, Harro (2009). *Lexicon Grammaticorum*. Tübingen.
6. [Ethnologue entry for Istriot](http://www.ethnologue.org/show_language.asp?code=ist) (http://www.ethnologue.org/show_language.asp?code=ist)
7. Tagliavini, Carlo. *Le origini delle lingue neolatine*. Patron Ed. Bologna 1982.
8. Cernecca, Domenico (1967). *Analisi fonematica del dialetto di Valle d'Istria*. Studia Romanica et Anglica Zagabiensia.
9. There is an article on the poet in [Italian Wikipedia](#).

External links

- [Istriot Language Map \(distribution\) \(https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Kp2EketQz_RCaFTnGZSYhIpZsFneq1WD&usp=sharing\)](https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1Kp2EketQz_RCaFTnGZSYhIpZsFneq1WD&usp=sharing)

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